

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants add new claims 14-17 and cancel claims 1-13¹ without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claims 14-17 are thus now pending in this application.

In the Office Action,² the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coppersmith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,390) in view of Ritter (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,549) and Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,768). Although Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, since claims 1-13 have been canceled, the rejection is moot. Applicants further submit that new claims 14-17 are neither disclosed or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Applicants further note that the Examiner requested Applicants to define the differences between the present application and the invention of its parent. Applicants note that claims 14-17 of the present application recite a “computer-readable storage medium.” Further, while of a different scope, claims 14-17 include recitations corresponding to allowed claims 10-13 of its parent, Application Serial No. 09/388,388. Claims 10-13 of the parent were directed to “an encryption/decryption unit for encrypting a plaintext into a ciphertext and/or decrypting a ciphertext into a plaintext.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 14-17 of the present application.

¹ Applicants note that claims 10-13 were canceled in the Preliminary Amendment of March 2, 2004, but for the purposes of clarity, Applicants repeat the cancellation herein.

² The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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